WATERSHED WRAP

Quarterly Newsletter from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Fish & Wildlife Program describing watershed management efforts. Offering readers food for conversation and paper for wrapping!

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The Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Fish, and Wildlife Programs work in a variety of cooperative, governmental and educational arenas in efforts to protect, enhance and restore our fish, and wildlife resources. This publication is intended to provide all people interested in fish, water and wildlife of the Coeur d'Alene Reservation information about our program, and to solicit your support as well as constructive criticism. Thank you for your interest.

Respectfully,

Mark H. Stanger, Fish, Water and Wildlife Outreach Specialist

Dave Lamb & Nathan Albrecht on the whaler boat!

New Fish and Wildlife Biologist

By Nathan Albrecht, Fish and Wildlife Biologist

I have recently been hired to fill the position vacancy created when Cam Heusser moved into the Wildlife Program Manager position. My time will be split between the Fisheries and Wildlife Programs.

I am originally from Eau Claire, Wisconsin, where I lived until 1998. My education comes from the University of Minnesota, where I obtained a Bachelors of Science Degree in Fisheries and Wildlife, and from Eastern Washington University, where I just recently received my Master of Science Degree in Biology. Throughout my studies, my interests have related to big-game management. I have contributed to white-tailed deer, black bear, and elk studies during my time as a student.

My professional experience comes from working as a wildlife and forestry consultant with a private consulting firm in northeastern Washington. During my four years there, I assisted private landowners in managing their forest and wildlife resources. I hope I can use my education and experience to help maintain and enhance the fish and wildlife resources of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. I am excited about beginning my work, and I look forward to meeting many of you throughout the course of my career.

Attention:

Hangman Creek Watershed Work Group Meeting at Tensed Community Center At 6:00pm on Oct 8th

The plan is to set up individual stations like Natural Resource Conservation Service, Fisheries, Wildlife, Spokane County Conservation District, Pilot Project for Road Management. Bruce will have posters of results of the first year's data collection and will be available for questions from any individual attendees. Anymore questions call Bruce Kinkead Phone: (208) 686-6071or Gerry Green 686-0312
E-mail: bkinkead@cdatribe-nsn.gov

New Fisheries Enhancement Project Underway In Benewah Creek

By Angelo Vitale, Fisheries Biologist

The Fisheries Program is preparing to break ground on a significant enhancement effort aimed at improving wetland and aquatic

habitats in the Benewah Valley. The project site is located on land that was purchased by the Tribe in September 2001 as part of the Bonneville Power Administration program to mitigate for habitat losses associated with construction of Albeni Falls Dam on Lake Pend Oreille.

A conservation easement was created at the time of purchase for the purpose of retaining and protecting the natural values of the property by protecting the natural resources, maintaining and enhancing air and water quality, and preserving the underlying archaeological or cultural aspects of the property into perpetuity.

The current stream channel is in a condition symptomatic of past disturbance, incision, and entrenchment that are common in many northwest area streams. Hydraulic analysis shows the capacity of the channel in most places is equal to the 5-year peak flood flow. By comparison, stream channels in balance with watershed hydrology and sediment transport begin to flow over floodplains somewhere near a 2-year peak flow. The amount of fish habitat and wetland loss associated with this degree of incision is difficult to quantify, as there are no predisturbance photos or surveys to compare with. However, ongoing studies and direct observation by longtime residents have indicated that the channel incision has perpetuated unstable and eroding stream banks, lowered the water table, and contributed to elevated water temperatures - all of which

Channel incision in Benewah Creek has had a dramatic effect on fish and wildlife.

play a large role in limiting the productivity of Benewah Creek for cutthroat trout.

The current project is planned to improve several aspects of stream channel function. Tree and shrub plantings will take place over several years to address the temperature problems, improve long-term stream channel stability and provide a steady supply of wood material to the channel. Large wood is an important aspect of trout habitat where it grows naturally next to stream channels. To enhance wetlands and fish habitat, portions of the valley bottom will be excavated to emulate abandoned stream meanders and flood channels. These areas have been designed to be free draining and should function as feeding and rearing areas for fish during high water and provide wetland habitat and diversity the rest of the year. Also large wood material will be placed in and around existing flood channels. This treatment will help provide grade control when floodwater is actively moving across the valley bottom at flows greater than the 5-year return peak flood. This is a short-term solution to reduce avulsion risk until a forest community can develop.

The property has a significant history and a number of unique features that the Tribe hopes to preserve and enhance as this project progresses. The property encompasses 3.2 miles of streams and associated wetlands – approximately 25% of the mapped wetlands in the entire Benewah Creek watershed. Results of a cultural resource survey completed in June 2001 were positive, indicating the presence of differing chronological periods including pre-contact for the Coeur d'Alene People (Schitsu'umsh), the Removal Period, and historic logging activities within the Benewah drainage. The property was an important travel route for the Schitsu'umsh between Sbiinwahu'lumkhw, the area around Benewah Lake, and L'lkhwi'lus (DeSmet) and Chetche'mch'm (Emida). The property supports an abundance of wildlife and plant species, including cutthroat trout, deer, elk, moose, beaver, waterfowl, and camas.

A draft management plan that is being written for the property includes the following objectives:

- Restore hydrologic functions and historic wetlands;
- Improve habitat for white-tailed deer;
- Improve channel stability and fish habitat;
- Increase forested habitat types throughout the valley bottom;
- Control and reduce noxious weeds and introduced vegetation;
- Provide access and use compatible with wildlife and habitat objectives.

We hope that this current project, and future projects, will help restore some of the historic values to this property for all to enjoy.

The Tribal Natural Resource committee reviews plans for Benewah Creek.

Summer Youth Interns Activities!
By Mark H. Stanger, Outreach Specialist

This summer our interns were involved in helping us work on a lot of projects we had to complete during the field season. We had many different types of jobs that our interns were exposed to like: reestablish and establishing survey points for bank erosion , In Hangman Creek we did a lot of checking water quality and the same on Indian, and Lake creeks. Our youth learned about how we monitor fish populations in streams and lakes. The real interesting activities were when they learned how to do electroshocking, and gillnetting in the creeks and lakes. This year's Summer Youth interns included Jonathan Charlo, Kyle Campbell, and Mona Daniels.

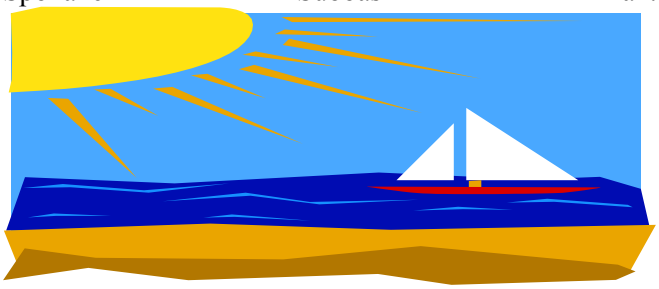
Intern Mona explains, I really enjoyed working on the lake in all the natural surroundings including the lakes, streams, and creeks. I was able to work in and out of the office; the different experiences I gained helped me realize where my interests are. I'm not sure if I really want to work outdoors, although it was pretty fun and very beneficial to me." The restoration sites were the best things we enjoyed about working here this summer. The training to get the experience was the main priority. The summer youth interns really enjoyed their time learning and working with all our different programs and personnel. Special thanks go out to our personnel that helped train them: (Bruce, Glen, Ken, Dan B, Dan J, Dave, John, and Jess) here at Fisheries, Wildlife, Water Quality, and Lake Management programs. I'm sure most of them will be back next year.

If there are any youth or college interns that want to participate next year or want to know more about what types of jobs are available, we would greatly appreciate hearing from you. If interested contact Mark Stanger at (208) 686-0131 or mhstanger@cdatribe-nsn.gov Furthermore, if you have changed your address recently please let us know so we can mail you a newsletter in the future.

Have you heard of Subbasin Planning?
By Gerald I. Green, Wildlife Biologist

The Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act was originally authorized by Congress in 1980. The Act created the Northwest Power & Conservation Council to develop regional plans and programs to protect, mitigate and enhance fish and wildlife affected by the Columbia River power system. The Council proposed a Fish and Wildlife Program in 2000 to produce plans for each Subbasin within the Columbia River Watershed Basin area. The plans that are currently being written under the 2000 Program will serve as a basis for determining the types of projects that will qualify for mitigation funding within each Subbasin.

Within the Continental United States, the Columbia River Basin is divided into 11 Provinces. Each Province is further divided into Subbasins. The Provinces and Subbasins were established generally according to watershed boundaries. The Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation lies almost wholly within the Intermountain Province, which covers portions of Northeastern Washington and the southern portion of the Idaho Panhandle. However, the Reservation is divided at the Subbasin level. All the land that drains into Coeur d'Alene Lake is within the Coeur d'Alene Subbasin, while all the land that drains into the Spokane River downstream of Coeur d'Alene Lake is within the Spokane Subbasin. So the Coeur d'Alene Reservation will be included in two Subbasin Plans. The eastern and northeastern portions will be addressed in the Coeur d'Alene Subbasin Plan and the western and southwestern portions will be addressed within the Spokane Subbasin Plan.



The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is the marketing agency for the power produced by the federally owned dams within the Columbia River Basin. And it is BPA that provides funding for this planning process and the mitigation the planning will direct. The plans produced for each the Coeur d'Alene and the Spokane Subbasins will determine the future

direction of the BPA mitigation (restoration) projects that occur on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation.

This Subbasin Planning process has recently been initiated. And the Subbasin Plans are due for completion by the summer of 2004. The Plans must include an assessment, a review of the environment and fish and wildlife populations, an inventory, a review of environment and fish and wildlife projects, and a management plans, which will include a vision and a list of environmental and biological objectives and strategies.

On a practical level, what all this means is that those of us involved in mitigation projects must pay close attention to the Subbasin Planning process because if a current project is not addressing issues that will be identified in the Subbasin Plans, that project will have a limited future. More importantly however, mitigation projects currently undertaken by the Coeur d'Alene Tribe are designed and intended to address environmental problems that limit the Tribe's subsistent resources. In order for Plans to be relevant, they must identify environmental problems within the Subbasins as well and suggest strategies to deal with those environmental problems.

A substantial portion of the effort in Subbasin Planning is devoted to seeking public input. Since I am currently involved with the Hangman Restoration Project, I am involved with the development of the Plan for the Spokane Subbasin. If anyone would like to be involved in the Spokane Subbasin Planning process, would like to learn more about the Planning process and what it means or would like to comment on the issues and items included in the Plans, please feel free to contact me at my office. My office phone number is 208-686-0312. Or you could e-mail me at ggreen@cdatribe-nsn.gov

Worley & Agency Ponds

By Mark H. Stanger, Outreach Specialist

The fish that got away! There were a lot of people that went fishing in the ponds this year. The biggest crowd at one time was the **Wellness Center** sponsored a grab our rod and reel and lets go fishing! For that one-day event we had over 125 youth that participated in the mad dash to catch a fish. Some caught two or three fish, but there were some that didn't catch any. But just being there to watch their buddies catch a fish was exciting. For a lot of youth it was their first time fishing. A lot of youth were very excited.

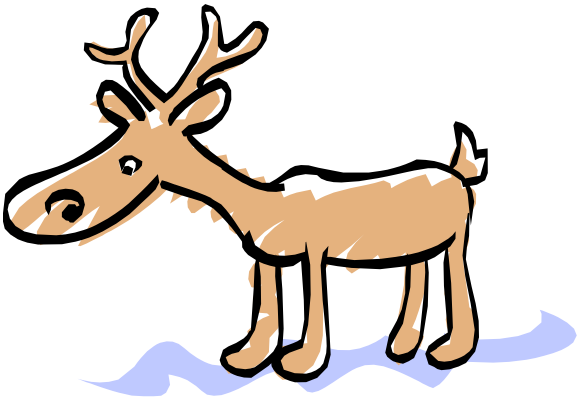
Mark & Dave helping youth learn how to catch fish at the Agency!

Worley & Agency Ponds open year around and stocked with rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) annually. There are still a few fish in the ponds that survived the hot summer!

Dworshak National Fish Hatchery is the donor to thank for fish at the ponds. They have been kind enough to donate trout to restock the ponds this year. Approximately 1300 rainbow trout ranging in weight from 1 to 1½ pounds were stocked in the Worley pond while the Agency pond only had 800 fish stocked in it.

Both Ponds had a lot of young and elderly people fishing them. I don't think anybody went home without a fish or two. There are still a few fish left in both ponds, but the one's left are the smart one's, so you will have to pull out your magic bag of trick worms to pull them out. It was a good year for all anglers. I hope you will all come back next year when we restock the ponds again. If you want any more information on fishing the ponds or the lake send or call: Mark H. Stanger (208) 686-0131
mhstanger@cdatribe-nsn.gov

Lloyd catching fish at the agency pond!



16th Annual Moose Lottery
By Cameron Heusser, Wildlife Program Manager

The 16th Annual Coeur d'Alene Tribal Moose Lottery has come and gone. Moose permits for the ceded area and for on-reservation hunts were picked during the month of August. We had 83 applicants enter the drawing this year. The entry deadline for the drawing, which is open to enrolled members of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe only (age 14 and over), was August 8th. The drawing was held at the Fish and Wildlife office on Monday, August 18th. Good luck to all the winners! Tag winners for the ceded lands will be allowed to harvest one moose of either sex, while on-Reservation winners are allowed either a bull or a cow, depending on their tag. Over the last few years, we have seen lottery winners do very well with a harvest success of nearly 75%. The Wildlife Program would like to remind all hunters to please turn in their harvest reports whether or not they are successful. This information is used to determine future management recommendations for the moose hunt.

Antlerless Deer and Elk Seasons Open

Tribal hunters will be happy to hear that they are now authorized to harvest antlerless deer and elk. The either sex deer and elk season opened as of September 1, 2003. This year on the Reservation seasons will remain the same as last years with bull elk, and either sex deer remaining open until January 31, 2004. Cow elk season will close on December 31, 2003. All bag limits for this year will remain the same. *Good luck to all Tribal hunters!* If you want any more information please call me: Cameron Heusser at 208-686-5521 Cheusser@cdatribe-nsn.gov

Species Profile:
Idaho Giant Salamander
Dicamptodon aterrimus (Pacific Mole Salamanders)
By Bruce Kinkead, Fisheries Biologist

Representatives of this family are the largest terrestrial salamanders in the Pacific Northwest. The species found in Idaho, *Dicamptodon aterrimus* is the largest Idaho salamander.

These salamanders have robust bodies and heads and can grow to lengths of 14 inches in total length. Idaho Giant Salamanders have a dark marbled pattern of spots or blotches on a brown, gray, tan or copper ground color. Unlike the Tiger Salamander, which it superficially resembles, the Idaho Giant Salamander lacks the readily visible costal grooves (furrows on their sides that make them appear segmented like a worm). Another characteristic of these salamanders is that the fourth toe on the hind foot only has three segments.

The larvae of this salamander are adapted to living in streams, as shown by their short, small gills. Other distinguishing characteristics of these larvae are yellowish blotches on a tan ground color. Some individual larvae of this species can become sexually mature while maintaining the larval form. This is called paedomorphosis.
Idaho Giant Salamander eggs are unpigmented and attached singularly under submerged logs and rocks. The 6.5mm diameter eggs may be laid in groups of 135-200.

In Idaho, these salamanders are restricted to the north-central forested areas.

Larvae usually inhabit clear, cold streams, but are also found in mountain lakes and ponds. Adults are found under rocks and logs in humid forests, near mountain streams, or on rocky shores of mountain lakes.

Idaho Giant Salamanders are generally found in moist coniferous forests. The transformed adults are secretive and seldom found in the open, but can be found in moist areas such as under logs and bark. They need a water source for reproduction. Often, this is the headwaters of a mountain stream, a spring or mountain lake. Idaho Giant Salamander larvae are more frequently encountered and may be locally common. They are usually found under rocks in mountain streams.

Larvae feed on wide variety of aquatic invertebrates as well as some small vertebrates (e.g., fishes, tadpoles, or other larval salamanders). Adults eat terrestrial invertebrates, small snakes, shrews, mice, and salamanders.

May hibernate in response to dry or hot conditions. Usually reaches sexual maturity (in both larval and terrestrial forms) at sizes greater than 5 inch (snout to vent length).

Breeding occurs in spring and fall. Female lays clutch of 135-200 eggs in spring, and guards eggs until hatched. Life history is variable and complex. At some sites, all larvae metamorphose and reproduce as terrestrial adults. At other locales, a high percentage of individuals are paedomorphic.

Early this summer personnel from the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's Fisheries Department found these giant salamanders in Indian Creek, a tributary of Hangman Creek. It is noteworthy because no other sightings have occurred anywhere within reservation boundaries. Although Benewah Cr. and Lake Cr. have healthier fish populations, no salamanders have been seen in these watersheds. Other amphibians found in large numbers were Columbian Spotted Frogs and Tailed Frogs.

Dicamptodon aterrimus (Pacific Mole Salamanders)